



NEWCASTLE PLATFORM

NEWS

April - June 2022

Marching on together.....

Home Affairs Opens New Office at hospital



Home Affairs Deputy Minister Mr Njabulo Nzuza on the right, Health Deputy Minister Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and Cllr Ruben Molelekoa officially opening Home Affairs office at Newcastle Hospital.....

The department of Home Affairs has ushered in a new era by officially opening the first Home Affairs Civil Registration

Office at the Newcastle Regional Hospital. The opening took place on March 25 and was attended by the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr SM Dhlomo, Deputy Minister of

Home Affairs Njabulo Nzuza, the Honorable member of Parliament, Dudu Sibiya and Cllr Ruben Molelekoa from Newcastle Municipality.....continues on page 2

CEO of the Newcastle Regional Hospital, Mr Khulekani Dlamini and other Senior Managers were present. Programme Director and the Deputy Director-General, Mr Thulani Mavuso welcomed the guests before Deputy Minister for Health Dr S. Dhlomo and Home Affairs Deputy Minister Mr N. Nzuza took to the podium to deliver their speech and keynote address respectively.

“The civic registration we are launching today is one of many that demonstrate the Department of Home Affairs’ s commitment , in collaboration with the Department of Health to ensure that all newborn babies are registered on the spot at the health institution where they are born” explained Nzuza

He added that birth registration is essential for determining and safeguarding the identity and the status of all people in South Africa.

“A birth certificate is an essential document for people to access all vital government services, and to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship in South African”

Nzuza added that the demographic data collected during birth registration process was critical for maintaining an accurate National Population Register (NPR) which pro-



Head of Health Department, Dr Sandile Shabalala on the right engaging with the Hospital CEO Mr. Khulekani Dlamini in the middle and the Home Affairs Deputy Minister Mr Njabulo Nzuza.....

moted evidence based policy making and effective public service delivery. “Every child has the right to a name and a nationality from birth, this is according to Section 28(a) of the South African Constitution, as a result parents and guardians are required by the Constitution to register the children’s birth as soon as possible after they are born” he said

He did say that due to the country’s history, however, South Africa had not achieved universal birth registration. He claimed that the 1923 Births, Marriages, and Deaths Registration Act was not universal or comprehensive in scope, and that it only covered select sectors of the population based on location and

population type. Furthermore, he said the absence of infrastructure in rural regions and forced removals hampered South African individual’s ability and incentive to register births within the 30-window required by law.

“We have started an initiative to improve birth registration at Health facilities around the country, thanks to our collaboration with the Department of Health. We want to implement an online birth registration system in all 1445 public health facilities with maternity wards across the country within the next two years, ensuring that all children born receive a birth certificate before being discharged from hospitals” he concluded



Pre-Easter Prayer at Newcastle Regional Hospital



Hospital staff calling for a divine intervention during Pre-Easter prayer at Newcastle Hospital

Covid19 came with a lot of changes in the way people are living and doing their things since March 2020, for almost two years South Africa has been under strict pandemic restrictions including limited number of people when attending various gatherings.

In 2022 things drastically changed which meant that people can now live their lives in a normal way, but not forgetting to sanitize and wear masks in a closed place. 2022 Easter weekend was warmly welcomed by Newcastle Regional Hospital staff by having a Pre-

Easter Prayer which was held at Hospital College Hall on the 14th April 2022. The CEO Mr KZ Dlamini together with his management were also in attendance. Opening the mini event Mr. Dlamini reminded the staff that without God humans are nothing. "The world has gone through so many challenges since the onset of the pandemic and so many lives were lost along the way. It is therefore in order and correct that we hold a prayer of this nature in order to thank and salute our maker for saving us up to today. As health workers we are always faced with difficult situations" he concluded

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Hospital top managers on the front row listening to a moving sermon from Pastor M.V Dumakude.....

Delivering a sermon Pastor M.V Dumakude on the right who is a Chaplain of the Newcastle Regional Hospital read a scripture from 1 Peter 1:3: "Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Staff who attended the prayer sang and prayed thanking God for saving them from the vicious pandemic. Programme Director of the day Mr. Sphiwe Msomi in his closing remarks thanked and appreciated the management of the hospital for allowing the prayer to be held in the hospital.





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International Nurses Day celebrated at Newcastle Hospital



Newcastle hospital nursing staff reading a Pledge of Service during the celebration of International Nurses Day

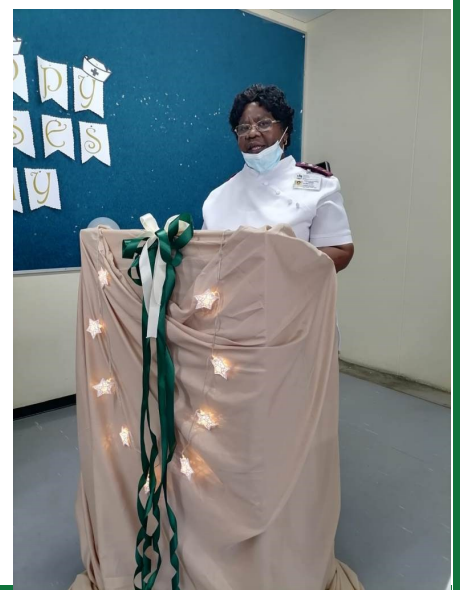
International Nurses' Day is celebrated annually on 12 May in memory of the birth of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, but also to honour nurses as an invaluable resource, and raise awareness of the challenges they face.

Newcastle Regional Hospital commemorated this day on 17 May 2022 in order to accommodate all nurses since Tuesday is known as "Hlanganani" in the hospital. The theme for 2022 is Nurses: ***A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health.***

Opening the event Matron Ndumo who is the Nursing Manager said International Nurses Day is an opportunity for the hospital to thank nurses for taking up the challenge of making ordinary case special through being mindful and thoughtful in the care they deliver.

"We are extremely proud of the sacrifices our nurses make each day to our patients. They have earned the respect of the entire country for their valiant effort during the pandemic" she said

Nursing
Manager
Matron M.D.
Ndumo wel-
coming the
attendees of
Nurses Day



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Speaker of the day Mrs. J.N. Mazibuko during the candle lighting and the reading of the Nurses' Pledge of Service

The guest speaker of the day Mrs. J.N. Mazibuko who is the HOD under Fundamental Nursing Science in Madadeni Nursing College touched base on two vital issues in Health fraternity which is professionalism and behavioral ethics.

Mazibuko said nurses need to improve what she called "Nurse - Patient relationship".

"You do not need to be rocket scientist in order to understand professionalism and ethics, its starts with a simple thing like Nurse - Patient relationship. Nurses should remember that respect is mutual, if you don't respect your patients, don't expect them to respect you as well" she said

Sister P.N Masondo, the M&E Manager for Newcastle

hospital led the process of candle lighting and the reading of the Nurses Pledge of Service and Matron B. Sokhela did the closing remarks.

Sister P.N. Masondo on the right who is the M&E Manager leading the candle lighting and the reading of Nurses Pledge of Service



Hospital refurbishment in progress at Newcastle



Former Boiler house under construction to be converted into modern Waste Management area

The earlier years of Newcastle history reflects a town which started from humble beginnings. Initially it was a forming town and passed unnoticed by both the travelers and would be investors. The mining mushroomed at the outskirts of the town, thus bringing an influx of people with it, and the start of major upswing for the economy of the town.

The original hospital was known as “The Cottage Hospital” which was completed in 1902. Dr Nolan Miss Brookshaw were the first Medical Superintendent and Matron. Amcor was erected in 1926 expanding the town, and so other small industries followed, and thus Newcas-

tle population grew further. In 1956 a new hospital block consisting of four floors with five wards and three theatres was opened. During the early seventies, Iscor erected a massive steel work in town, larger industries followed and so business and housing mushroomed in areas throughout Newcastle. With the expansion of the town, hospital services decided in 1979/1980 on a 25 million re-development of Newcastle Hospital. In a nutshell it means that since 1980 Newcastle Hospital has never been renovated. Due to a 41 year old infrastructure the hospital was identified by the Provincial Health Department as one of the hospital that requires renovations to meet current health standards.

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Rationalization of health care services in Amajuba District in 2012

The white paper on the transformation of Health System was published in April 1997. The document identified rationalization of health services as a means of transforming the South African health services.

The reality in Amajuba was that there two regional hospitals (Madadeni and Newcastle) running services in duplicate in the same geographical area. Rationalization of health services between these hospitals aimed to eliminate the wasteful utilization of already limited resources.

Major objectives of rationalization of health services in Amajuba District

- Rationalization with no duplication of services. Maximum utilization of available resources will maximize health outcomes.
- Shared resources e.g equipment will be transferred to where the service is provided.
- Prioritize maternal and child health (Priority MDG)
- Improve health service delivery capacity through strategic leadership.
- Reduction of client waiting times
- Improve quality service to ensure accreditation to participate in NHI for the benefit of all citizens of Amajuba.
- Accuracy in costing the service provided
- Improve efficiency
- Ensure optimal utilization of resources and promote the principle of Batho Pele.
- Rationalization of health services between Newcastle and Madadeni hospital was achieved on 1 October 2012.

Current situation at Newcastle Regional Hospital



Top photo showing walls with no plaster and the fence in-between the walls



A photo showing renovated walls with fence in-between the walls and the new lights poles around the hospital



New fence erected around POPD, High risk, Nkosinathi clinic, Nurses quarters and the Doctors quarters as part of security improvement



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Compound area next to back gate being renovated

The underway renovations at Newcastle Regional Hospital started in August 2021 and is expected to be complete in February 2023.

Underneath are the areas that are currently being renovated:

- Roofing
- Fencing
- Perimeter lights
- Security boom gate
- Waste management area

- HVAC

The next phase will then follow once the first phase has been completed. The second will cover the following areas.

- CCTV cameras
- Fire detectors
- Conversion of boilers

Hospital staff, members of the community including the patients are humbly requested to exercise patients while these renovations are under way. Construction signs should be respected at all times.



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